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Oswald was FBI informant, French documentary says

PARIS (UPI) — A former FBI employe said in a documentary film on French television Friday that Lee Harvey Oswald, presumed assassin of President John F. Kennedy, was an informant of the bureau.

Bill Walter, identified by the film commentator and by screen credits as a former FBI security clerk in New Orleans, said in a televised interview that he found Oswald's name in FBI files.

"I recognized the file serial number as that of an informant," Walter said. "I could not have access to the file because it had a 'secret' designation and was locked in the special-agent-in-charge's office."

An FBI spokeman in Washington said that his best recollection is Walter worked as some kind of FBI clerk in New Orleans and has made previous statements that "didn't wash."

Walter spoke English in the interview but his words were "voiced over" in French translation in the film, shown on state-owned television.

Walter said that on Nov. 17, 1963, five days before Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, a teletyped message was transmitted to all FBI bureaus, alerting them that an attempt on Kennedy's life was expected on Nov. 22 or 23 in Dallas.

"When I learned of the assassination, I remembered the teletype and tried to find out what action had been taken," Walter said. "I was told that no teletype existed, although I had handled it myself."

The film, part of a documentary series on the Kennedy assassination, also included an "interview" with Oreste Penia, identified in the film as a Cuban exile and FBI informant.

Penia's words were read by the commentator, who said Penia refused to have them recorded and was unaware they were noted.

Penia reportedly told the film's director Jean-Michel Charlier he and Oswald frequently made reports together to the FBI in New Orleans.

"In 1963, we went each morning to make our report," Penia was quoted as saying. "Afterwards, we would go together for breakfast in the Trade Winds, a snack bar used by FBI agents."

Penia identified Warren de Bruyes as the FBI officer handling his and Oswald's case.

Penia said that shortly before he testified before the Warren Commission investigating the Kennedy assassination, de Bruyes told him; "I will get rid of your ass," if he mentioned Oswald's FBI link.